MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 20, 1935.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1936, was held in its office in the Navy Department Building on Friday, December 20, 1935. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Lawrie,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting, held November 22, 1935, were approved.

2. RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY COIN: Under date of December 10, 1935, the following letter was received from the Director of the Mint submitting models of a coin to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Rhode Island:

December 10, 1935.

Hon. Charles Moore,
Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

This Bureau is forwarding models which have been submitted for the fifty-cent piece authorized by the Act of May 2, 1935, providing for the coinage of fifty-cent pieces in commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the City of Providence, Rhode Island.

The designs are submitted for your consideration as to their artistic merits.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint.

The models showed on the obverse the landing of Roger Williams and on the reverse the Anchor of Hope, the State Seal of Rhode Island. Mr. Lawrie said that Mr. J. H. Benson of Newport, who had designed the coin, had written to him about the matter. The design shown in the model was selected as the result of a competition and Mr. Lawrie said that he preferred one of the other designs. However, since this one had been selected he would approve it. Therefore, upon the recommendation of Mr. Lawrie the Commission approved the models. (Exhibit A)

2. MODEL FOR FOUNTAIN FIGURE, GREAT ENTRANCE TO ARLINGTON: Under date of December 4, 1935, the following letter was received from Mr. A. A. Weinman, sculptor, regarding his model for the sculpture to surmount the fountain to go in the niche at the Great Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery:

December 4, 1935.

Charles Moore, Esq., Chairman
National Commission of Fine Arts
Navy Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Upon request of Mr. Swartwout who, with Mr. Kendall, called at my studio to see the model for the sculpture to surmount the fountain in the great niche of the Arlington Memorial approach, I am sending you herewith a brief description of the general composition.

After having tried out several sketches along different lines, my first hazy impression of a vertical composition and a masculine figure suddenly took shape and carried, to me, the definite conviction that it would be of the right spirit for the place.

My composition shows a strong, upright figure of a warrior, rising above the clouds, head bowed low in acceptance of his destiny, his left hand supporting his sword, sheathed, its duty done, his right hand raised in silent salute, a last farewell.

Behind and somewhat above this figure is a flying winged youth carrying the warrior's helmet to a higher realm, the Spirit of Immortality.

I am working out some minor suggestions made by Messrs. Kendall, Swartwout and Lawrie, who also saw the model. When these are completed and the model cast in plaster, I shall have it photographed and copies sent to you for discussion and, I trust, approval by the Commission.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,
(Signed) A. A. Weinman.

The Commission inspected photographs of the model that Mr. Weinman had sent with the statement that the model is about 7' 6" long and about 3'6" wide. Also Mr. Weinman submitted a letter on December 19, giving as his estimate for the memorial $46,500. (Exhibit B)

Mr. Swartwout said that Mr. Weinman had done a very nice thing but that he would be just as happy if there were no water there and "yet it does not seem quite dignified not to have the fountain. I would not encourage filling that fountain up too much". Mr. Swartwout felt that the basin below the figure should be omitted and that Mr. Kendall should design a pedestal instead. (Mr. Swartwout said that Mr. Kendall had asked that the Commission inspect the niche sometime during the day.) Mr. Clarke agreed with Mr. Swartwout that instead of the basin there should be a properly designed pedestal. Mr. Lawrie also felt that the figure and basin are in different scales and that if the basin were to be retained it should be for a figure not more than one-third of the size indicated in the model. He reported that Mr. Weinman thought a sheet of water would make a very fine shape but without it the shape is not at all agreeable, hence Mr. Kendall should put in something at the base to fill out the shape and make it look better when the water is not running. Mr. Lawrie said he, however, liked the scheme or idea presented in Mr. Weinman's model.

Mr. Swartwout said that when he inspected the model with Mr. Kendall he was disturbed by the details in back of the figure. They make three spots--

the head of the figure, the head of the Angel and the helmet. The question was raised whether or not the Angel should be omitted but it was recalled that the niche is so large as to require a group and that Mr. Weinman was of that opinion. This is one of the elements of the model that is to be given further study by Mr. Weinman as above indicated. Mr. Lawrie said the head of the figure should be just above the spring line of the arch but in this case the mass behind the figure pushes it up higher.

A report was sent to Mr. Weinman (Exhibit B-1) and also to the Director of the National Park Service (Exhibit B-2).

Later in the afternoon the Commission inspected the niche, at which time it was agreed that if Mr. Kendall's design had been carried out, it would have been unsatisfactory. The Commission noted the three seals that had been carved over the niche, namely, the Seal of the United States, and the Army and Navy Seals.

4. LOCATION FOR PAN AMERICAN OFFICE BUILDING: Mr. Moore called attention to a copy of a letter received from Dr. Rowe (Exhibit C) that he had sent to the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the location of the Pan American Administration Building. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Ickes having placed his building in the wrong location now desires to have the Pan American building relocated so as to keep the area on the south side of the new Interior Department Building open; that Dr. Rowe reported that the President has suggested closing Virginia Avenue and making a square between 18th and 19th Streets from Constitution Avenue north to C Street with a circle in the center of it for a memorial to the Liberators of South America.

Mr. Clarke said Henry Hubbard had made a plan that had been submitted by Dr. Cret, which both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park

and Planning Commission had approved. Mr. Hubbard believes this square can be brought out by the planting. Mr. Clarke thought Mr. Delano of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission would be a help in this situation, but Mr. Moore said Mr. Delano has not taken a strong stand. It was the feeling of the Commission that Mr. Ickes is motivated by Mr. Waddy Wood. Mr. Moore believed the Commission should stand by the agreement which Mr. Ickes formerly made and the Commission agreed to do this.

5. SCULPTURE FOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Lawrie reported that he had inspected the models submitted by the Painting and Sculpture Section for statues to be placed in the Post Office Department Building, which were exhibited at the Cosmopolitan Club in New York. He in general felt the models should be further developed before detailed criticisms could be offered. Mr. Lawrie submitted a report which the Commission approved and it was sent to Mr. Rowan. (Exhibit D; see also D-1)

6. SIXTEENTH STREET NICHE, MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Mr. Kirkpatrick submitted a design for the niche of Meridian Hill Park that had been made in accordance with suggestions that had been offered by Mr. Howells at the November meeting of the Commission. Mr. Kirkpatrick also submitted a model of the niche. The Commission felt that this offered quite a satisfactory solution to the problem.

The general scheme was approved as submitted without any suggestions except as to the detail of niche and the planting enframement. As to the latter, the suggestion was that the enframing planting should be of the open character of the sketch rather than the formal type indicated on the model.

Regarding the niche, Mr. Howells explained his idea that, with the vertical jet, a head with pendant decorations might be used; or a clustered reed motif.

Mr. Lawrie suggested the possibility of a horizontal band treatment at the springing of the arch. Mr. Peaslee recalled the use of real stalactites, as he had originally proposed, which interested both Mr. Howells and Mr. Lawrie. They agreed that this was a job for a sculptor; that they would like to see alternate studies (vertical and horizontal; that stalactites could well be used; and that the sculptor's work was worth $1,000. Mr. Finnan said that there was $10,000 left and on Mr. Nagel's off-hand estimate they thought this amount was sufficient to complete the work as desired and that they could arrange about the sculptor.

The suggestion has been made that this memorial be called the Mary F. Henderson Memorial in appreciation of her efforts to procure Meridian Hill Park for the National Capital. A report was sent to the Director of the National Park Service. (Exhibit E)

7. CONDITION OF ENGLISH ELMS ALONG LINCOLN MEMORIAL REFLECTING BASIN: Under date of December 19, 1935, the following letter and report were received from Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, regarding the condition of the elm trees along the Lincoln Memorial reflecting basin, together with photographs showing the condition of these trees:

December 19, 1935.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
National Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

In accordance with your verbal request I am enclosing a report of the condition of the English Elms at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. I am also attaching the eleven photographs which depict the condition of these trees. These photographs were made in 1929. It is requested that these photographs be returned for our files when the Commission has finished with them.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent.

ENGLISH ELMS AT LINCOLN MEMORIAL REFLECTING POOL

Despite the excellent care and attention that has been given the approximately 250 English Elm trees which form a border for the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and which are, from both a landscaping and horticultural viewpoint, one of the most important groups of trees in National Capital Parks, the trees are apparently doomed to a comparatively short existence. This regrettable outlook prevails after every known means of preserving the trees has been resorted to by the park horticulturalists who have followed closely the advice of scientists of the Forest Pathology Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture who, at the request of this office, have made frequent inspection of the trees and careful studies of their condition.

The trees were planted in 1916, prior to the excavation for the reflecting pool. The ground in which they were planted was in a moist, soggy condition. This circumstance has undoubtedly been responsible for the failure of the trees to produce a substantial root growth, sufficient to provide necessary anchorage for the mature trees. At the time of planting the trees were securely guyed to prevent uprooting by severe winds, but as they grew larger and developed the compact heavy heads which are typical of their species, this guying of the trees, even with 5/16" cable supporting the trees from four directions, has been insufficient to support them. The trees are so devoid of natural anchorage that they fall easy victims to the elements, twenty of them having been toppled in a single storm.

Upon the advice of the Forest Pathologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, this office began in 1929 and has repeated at regular intervals since that time, a surface feeding of the English Elms in an attempt to encourage a root growth in the firm soil near the surface. The method employed in this treatment is to apply a quick acting fertilizer in the area immediately surrounding the trees, extending out to the limit of their foliage spread. This fertilizer is placed six to eight inches deep. The operation has been performed on all of the trees from time to time, and while it has succeeded in providing nourishment sufficient to afford the trees a satisfactory growth above the ground, it has failed thus far to produce root growth strong enough to hold the trees in place. Indeed, many of the trees which have been uprooted in recent storms had hardly enough root growth to fill a bushel basket while the trunks of the trees range from 10 to 15 inches in diameter.

The inspections of the trees by U. S. Department of Agriculture pathologists has revealed the trees to be singularly free of disease. The damage from insect pests has been negligible and easily controlled by routine spray treatment. In the opinion of the pathologists the almost entire lack of root development by these trees has been the result of water suffocation.

Investigation made by the Engineering branch in 1929 showed a lowering of the ground water level in this area, below the normal root

penetration of the trees. This is reassuring and leads to the belief that trees planted to replace the present elms could be expected to produce normal root growth.

Facing the likelihood of the eventual loss of all of the English Elms in this group, this office is at present contemplating their ultimate replacement. It is hoped that this replacement can be effected without too apparent noticeability and without unsightliness that might result from an inharmonious assemblage of trees during the period that will be required to complete the operation.

The Commission were very much concerned over this matter and felt it should have immediate attention. Mr. Moore said that he understood that marsh gas which was in the soil when the trees were planted is doing the damage.

Mr. Clarke was asked to make suggestions and he recommended trenching each side of the rows of trees to a depth a little greater than the maximum root penetration and sufficiently far away from the trees to be a little beyond their present spread of the tops. These trenches should be filled with coarse broken stone over a vitrified tile drain of adequate size, laid with open joints. Mr. Clarke talked with Mr. Finnan personally about the matter. The suggestions of Mr. Clarke were transmitted in a report to Mr. Finnan. (Exhibit F)

Attention was also called to a copy of a letter received from Dr. Coville, Botanist of the Department of Agriculture, offering the assistance of experts of that Department in the matter.

8. APEX BUILDING SITE: Mr. Moore read the following letter received from Mr. Clarke,

December 15, 1935.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I regretted the news to the effect that the government has finally decided to construct a building on the triangular plot east of the Archives Building. Irrespective of the relative merit of the plans for the building designed by Bennett, Parsons and Frost, I feel strongly that a building should not be constructed on this plot. My reasons are as follows:

(1) The Archives Building serves as a fitting easterly terminus to the triangle group with the addition of a much smaller mass than is contemplated.

(2) There is great need for more open space in this part of the city.

(3) The provision for more office space in this part of the city means added congestion of traffic. This problem has not received sufficient consideration in the planning of the large group of buildings in the Triangle, and to bring more office personnel into this area seems to me to be unwise.

(4) The site is not an economical one for a building by reason of its being exceedingly narrow. It is, in my opinion, an excellent site for a memorial comprising less bulk than a building. The east facade of the Archives Building would form a dignified background for a memorial of lesser proportions than the building planned for the site. Such a memorial could, I believe, serve adequately and more handsomely terminate the pointed end of the Triangle.

I hope that careful consideration may be given to this matter by the members of the Commission before definite steps are taken to construct the building as planned. It must be possible to accommodate the offices intended to be housed in this particular building elsewhere, to the satisfaction of the prospective occupants.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke.

The Commission discussed the matter. Mr. Clarke said that Mr. Hubbard did not think the building should go there. Mr. Moore said there is an Act of Congress to place the Jefferson Memorial at the apex of the Triangle but that if it is decided to locate the building there Mr. Clarke's letter will be considered in connection with the project.

9. TEXAS CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS: Mr. William B. Yeager, Executive Secretary of the Texas Centennial Commission accompanied by Mr. George Dahl, consulting architect of the Exposition, submitted plans for the Government building to cost $350,000 and a Negro building to be built with Government funds. The Negro building is to be called the Abyssinian or Ethiopian Palace. It will have an outdoor auditorium. Mr. Dahl said the colored people are taking a

great interest in it. The Government is spending $50,000 for the building and $50,000 for the exhibits.

Mr. Dahl discussed the plans of these buildings with the Commission. He said that the Texas Centennial involves an expenditure of $20,000,000 and he showed from a plot where a number of the buildings will be located. Henry Ford is putting a million and a half into a building for the exposition. His building, circular in design, will be across the street from the Government Building and since Mr. Ford picked the best location, it is obvious that the Government building will have a good location.

The exposition, which is to open June 6, 1936, is expected to have an attendance in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 people. The State passed a law that there should be this exposition, the central exposition going to the city that could furnish the most money. Dallas, which bid the highest, already has some buildings which can be used after undergoing some change. There is a race track which will be used for a great pageant showing the history of Texas from Cabeza de Vaca on down through the six flags under which Texas has existed. There are to be among the buildings a natural history museum costing $220,000; an arts museum costing $500,000; an open amphitheater, etc. The State Building, which is to be permanent, is to be of stone with bronze windows. All the other buildings will be of hollow tile, steel, and stucco on the outside. There is to be sculptural work by Mr. Cecere, Mr. Jose and Mr. Borglum.

The design for the Government Building was in a number of respects similar to that of the building erected at the Chicago Exposition. There were three pylons 100 feet in height and 20 feet across to represent the three branches of the Government. Mr. Dahl said since Mr. Ford is going to have a circular

building they decided it would be better to definitely get away from a circular form. The exterior is stucco and every bit of space is to be utilized as they are pushed for exhibit area. Their buildings will have 63 per cent efficiency.

It was a very ordinary design, however, and Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Howells were not at all pleased with it. Mr. Moore asked about the Mexican designs. Mr. Dahl said these buildings breathe a little of the Southwest in that there are not many openings. They are not going in for an over amount of ornamentation and are going to use a neutral color scheme--nothing bazarre as at Chicago.

The Commission after consideration decided that inasmuch as the style of the buildings for the exposition had been set the design for the Government Building would not be disapproved. A letter was sent to the Texas Centennial Commission accordingly. (Exhibit G)

(The Texas Centennial Commission had reported through Mr. Yeager that they were not satisfied with the letter from the Commission of Fine Arts and would not give their approval to the plans and desired a supplementary report. Mr. Moore sent this in which he stated that for reasons indicated the plans were approved as presented but stated also that the Commission had not had time to consider the plans in detail. Thereupon the Texas Centennial Commission again protested and Mr. Moore took photographs of the plans to New York for a special meeting with Mr. Swartwout, Mr. Howells and Mr. Clarke at the Century Club on December 29.)

10. PAINTINGS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: The Commission discussed the letter received from Rear Admiral Peoples regarding the paintings for the Department of Justice and the Post Office Department. Mr. Moore thought in regard to the Government buildings in Washington that in their decorations the paintings should be along the line of the nation's inspiring history. He

said Mr. Savage treats those appointed to do these paintings as students in his classes and tries to help them. Mr. Savage says that they do not understand the technical terms of mural painting so he is going to try to tell them something about it when he meets them in New York. Mr. Clarke moved that Mr. Moore write a letter to the Procurement Division regarding these paintings. Mr. Moore said he would and that he also would expect criticisms from the Commission regarding the draft.

Mr. Moore said he spent last Sunday with Mr. Borie and the only satisfactory answer he got with regard to the Justice building paintings is that Mr. Biddle is a member of a prominent family in Philadelphia. Mr. Borie told Mr. Moore that Mr. Biddle had suggested the whole scheme to the President. Mr. Moore related that a letter had come over to the Commission from the White House and was forwarded to Mr. Savage for comment and that Mr. Savage did not like the scheme at all. Mr. Lawrie thought that if artists are chosen to paint the walls here they should be the greatest in the country; incompetent painters could get their experience elsewhere; the experiments should not be made in Washington.

Mr. Lawrie remarked that if the Director of Procurement can decide things like that he supposed any Government agency can refuse to abide by the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Moore told him that the Commission was only advisory and the responsibility rests with the executive officers. Mr. Lawrie then suggested that the Commission urge the architects of the buildings to refuse to let the paintings go in, Mr. Moore replying that the architects will not do that.

A letter was prepared to be sent to the Director of the Procurement Division. (Exhibit H)

12. FEDERAL HOUSING PROJECT IN NORTHEAST WASHINGTON: Mr. Moore told the Commission of further developments in the scheme for low cost housing in northeast Washington; that he had talked with one of the architects, Mr. Porter, who built the church opposite the Folger Library and had asked him about the design of his buildings. Mr. Porter said that if he put in such a great mass of red brick he would overwhelm the schools but if he made the thing in light brick it would leave the schools to themselves. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Swartwout what he thought about this. Mr. Swartwout said Mr. Porter was wrong again for if he wanted to paint the buildings out he would have to use a sort of blackish gray. Done in light brick the structures would be a great yellow blot on the landscape. Mr. Swartwout said there is, however, a sort of yellow brick that is very cheap, which one sees in St. Louis. If Mr. Porter had this sort of brick in mind it would not be so bad.

Mr. Moore said a new drawing is to be submitted to the Commission.

13. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR MEMORIAL TABLET: Under date of November 1, 1935, the following letter was received from the Director of the National Park Service suggesting the installation of a memorial plaque to commemorate the officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service who lost their lives in the performance of their official duties:

November 1, 1935.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

> The Department of Labor has requested permission to install in the main entrance of the new Labor Building, either on the wall adjacent to the elevators, or upon the large pilaster at the left of the door, a bronze memorial plaque in honor of the officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service who have lost their lives in the performance of their official duties.

A study made by this Service indicates that the logical place for the plaque is on the face of the pilaster, south wall, left-hand side of the main entrance, due east of the swinging bronze entrance doors.

The design for this plaque was submitted to the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department for consideration with the suggestion that the architect of the Labor Building, Mr.Arthur Brown, Jr., be consulted in the matter. In reply, the Service has received a letter from the Director of Procurement stating that the design was submitted to Mr. Brown for comment and returning a sketch with slight modifications which have been suggested by Mr. Brown.

The design for the plaque, as revised by Mr. Brown, and also the original design presented by the Department of Labor, are submitted herewith to your Commission with the request that you pass on same and advise this Service of your reaction toward the placing of the proposed plaque in the space suggested.

Please return both prints to this Service after they have served their purpose.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

The Commission inspected the drawings and noted that the design had been made by a commercial firm. The Commission disapproved the design because it was poor and the lettering unsatisfactory. In the afternoon the Commission inspected the locations suggested for the plaque at the main entrance of the Labor Department Building. Both of the locations suggested in the letter above quoted were disapproved. The Commission recommended that the memorial take the form of a marble tablet with the lettering in the Roman V-cut style and that it be placed on the wall at the left of the entrance to the auditorium. A report was sent to the Director of the National Park Service accordingly. (Exhibit I)

14. JUSSERAND MEMORIAL SITE: The Commission inspected the location proposed for the Jusserand Memorial in the Rock Creek Parkway between the

P Street Bridge and Massachusetts Avenue. It is to be a rather small memorial the design for which is being made by Mr. Kendall. The location is a depressed area of ground and suggests a treatment along the lines of a sunken garden. Mr. Clarke raised the question as to whether the location between the two driveways was such as might attract people who would possibly be hurt in crossing the streets and to mitigate this he suggested that the memorial be surrounded with planting so as to make it inconspicuous. Also Mr. Clarke suggested that the memorial be placed at the north end of the triangular plot.

15. NEW CALVERT STREET BRIDGE: The Commission inspected the new Calvert Street Bridge, which was opened on December 19, 1935. The Commission were much pleased with the bridge as built according to the design of Paul P. Cret. The bridge, which is built of limestone, is 750 feet long and 60 feet wide and is 130 feet above the level of the parkway. The three arches have a 146 foot span. The Commission drove over the bridge and noted the four sculptural reliefs representing rail, highway, air and water transportation by Leon Hermant. A letter of congratulation was sent to Dr. Cret. (Exhibit J; see also J-1)

16. THE MALL DEVELOPMENT: The Commission inspected the work in progress for the development of the Mall and also the Union Square Plaza development. They were pleased with the progress that is being made and with the results being achieved. Much pleasure was expressed in the view now had of the Washington Monument as seen from the Grant Memorial.

The Commission noted with regret that automobiles are being parked in the cross streets of the central panel and strongly recommended that parking be prohibited. A letter was sent to the Director of the National Park Service accordingly. (Exhibit K)

17. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The Commission had agreed at the November meeting that at the January meeting there should be a joint session with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to give further consideration to the question of location of the National Gallery of Art and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Also in the meantime the Secretary reported that during the past few days the District Commissioners had decided to ask Congress for $2,000,000 for the development of the Washington Channel (Public No. 409--74th Congress, approved August 30, 1935). While the plans have been approved, they might be further considered in matters of detail.

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission has suggested that the joint meeting be held on the afternoon of January 31. It has been arranged to hold the joint meeting accordingly on that date.

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p. m.

C O P Y

December 20, 1935.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 20, 1935, approved the models which you submitted with your letter of December 10, for the 50-cent piece to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the City of Providence, Rhode Island.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

ADOLPH ALEXANDER WEINMAN
234 GREENWAY SOUTH
FOREST HILLS, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

RECEIVED
DEC 20 1935

December 19, 1935.

r. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
he National Commission of Fine Arts
avy Building
ashington, D.C.

ear Mr. Caemmerer:

In response to your request I am sending you herewith the estimates which Messrs. McKim, Mead and White and myself have obtained for the furnishing of material, carving and setting of the architectural support for the fountain bowl and for the bowl and decorated drum below the sculptured group for the great niche in the Memorial approach to Arlington Cemetery.

Le Poidevin Company, 286 Fifth Avenue, New York City
For material, carving and setting complete $8,500.-

*

Edward Ardolino, Inc., 286 Fifth Avenue, New York City
For material, carving and setting complete. $15,100.-

*

Edward Ardolino, Inc. estimate for the furnishing of one large block of granite for the entire sculptured group and for carving same from my ½ size model and to deliver and set same carved group in place, is $20,000.-

*

Piccirilli Bros. estimate for the same work is $30,000.-

*

My estimate for the making of all necessary sketches, working model and one final one half full size model is $18,000.-

Taking the lowest bids for granite, carving, setting and sculptor's models, the cost would shape up as follows:

Sculptors models	$18,000.-
Furnishing granite, carving and setting group	20,000.-
Furnishing granite, carving and setting fountain and supports	8,500.-
	$46,500.-

Very truly yours,

cc: Mr. Nagle
Messrs. McKim, Mead & White

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

December 24, 1935.

Dear Mr. Weinman:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 20, 1935, considered the photographs of the model for the fountain to be placed in front of the niche at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Lawrie and Mr. Swartwout have discussed with you the simplification of the treatment behind the head. Mr. Lawrie suggested that perhaps you might consider the substitution of an eagle for the winged youth.

The Commission were much impressed with the composition; it is both fine and adequate. It will completely meet the requirements of the location. More than that, it will rise to the occasion and meet the opportunity. The Commission decidedly feel that so important a composition needs a thoroughly adequate base; and for this they count on Mr. Kendall who so often has shown his mastery in pedestals.

The Commission understand that the completed memorial will cost about $50,000, of which $35,000 has been made available. Effort will be made at once to procure the additional amount needed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. A. A. Weinman,
234 Greenway South,
Forest Hills, L. I.,
New York.

EXHIBIT B-1

COPY

December 12, 1935.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Referring to our conversation relative to the site for the new building of the Pan American Union, I beg to submit the following for your consideration:

I. Permit me to call attention to the fact that at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on February 23, 1935, the Commission received a message from Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, stating that the Secretary of the Interior had withdrawn his objection to the erection of the building in the triangle at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue since he now understands that it is to be a rather small building, that automobiles will not be parked in the triangle and that the building will not be enlarged at a future time. This was agreed to by the Commission of Fine Arts and a letter to this effect was sent to Mr. Paul P. Crét, the architect.

II. The plan referred to was worked out by a committee consisting of Mr. Henry V. Hubbard, Landscape Architect member of the Nationzl Capital Park and Planning Commission, Mr. Gilmore D, Clarke, Landscape Architect member of the Commission of Fine Arts and Dr. Crét, architect of the new building. This plan was agreed to by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

III. The Commission of Fine Arts decided to have the new building of the Pan American Union project south of the building line of the Public Health Service Building conforming in this respect to the Pharmaceutical Association Building which projects somewhat south of the National Academy of Sciences Building line. The Commission of Fine Arts in a communication to the Pan American Union stated that it regards the new Pan American Building as the completion of the frame for the Lincoln Memorial.

EXHIBIT C

IV. These matters were presented to the Building Committee of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, together with a letter from Mr. Delano which I quote in full as follows:

> "This morning in company with Mr. Nolen and Mr. Partridge of the Park and Planning Commission, I showed to the Secretary of the Interior models with five different alternatives for the treatment of the proposed Pan American Building between 18th and 19th Streets. After going over all the matters, the Secretary of the Interior accepted the plan which you had previously submitted and abandoned his request that you give up that site on the following conditions:
>
> 1) That you give up the idea of having parking space for cars on this lot;
>
> 2) That the size and height of the building which you are now proposing will not be enlarged or increased later.
>
> I told him I felt sure that you would agree to these conditions, and as far as we are concerned we are ready to authorize going ahead as soon as we have heard that these conditions have been accepted."

The Committee of the Governing Board accepted these conditions and a communication to this effect was sent to Mr. Delano.

V. I also beg to call attention to the fact that a total of $39,982.30 has been expended by the Pan American Union in the preparation of plans and the construction of a tunnel connecting the present building with the new building. Owing to the repaving of Virginia Avenue, the District authorities required us to construct the tunnel without delay.

This total of nearly $40,000 does not include the architects' fees for the preparation of the detailed plans which are now approaching completion.

VI. Our architect informs us that it is not possible to construct a building adequate for our needs on the present grounds of the Pan American Union.

VII. In view of these circumstances, I am instructed to inform you that the Building Committee of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union deems it necessary to proceed on the basis of the agreement reached with you as communicated to the Committee by Mr. Delano.

I beg to remain, my dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed)

L. S. Rowe,
Director General.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,
Department of the Interior,
Washington.

C O P Y

December 18, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Lawrie visited the exhibition of models for statuary in the Post Office Department Building at the Cosmopolitan Club of New York. He inspected the models carefully and feels in general that the models should be more developed before he submits detailed criticisms of them. Mr. Lawrie submitted the following report:

"At the exhibition of these sketches at the Cosmopolitan Club there was a sketch by Louis Slobotkin, sculptor, that was not included with these photographs. Piccirilli's, Calder's, Waugh's, Margoulies's, will very likely result in excellent figures. Certainly Calder and Piccirilli are men of unquestioned ability. All of the sketches make a better impression than the photographs would indicate. A number of sculptors have made shortened legs, and although this appears to be a fad at present with some sculptors, I think that figures in the normal proportions are better. Other criticisms could be made, but I believe it would be better to withhold them until more developed models are submitted.

"All of the details as to costume, accessories, and characterization should be, of course, historically correct. Perhaps the Post Office Department could lend data to the sculptors that would insure this.

"Another thought I had is that when sculpture is being considered for walls, niches or any part of a building, either interior or exterior, it is better if the sketches are shown with parts of the adjacent architecture so that it may be judged whether the compositions will look proper in their ultimate positions. There was nothing in this exhibition to show what restrictions are imposed by the niches, and whether when all of the statues are placed they will each appear as one of a series of niched figures for one room. I would suggest that the Section of Painting and Sculpture be asked hereafter to submit the architectural parts along with the sculpture when sketches are presented for advice and comment."

EXHIBIT D

The Commission of Fine Arts concur in the report of Mr. Lawrie.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

December 24, 1935

PROCUREMENT DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH

IN REPLYING QUOTE THE ABOVE SUBJECT, BUILDING, AND THESE LETTERS PW- SA*P&S

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
DEC 1935
NOTED

Mr. Charles Moore
The Commission of Fine Arts
New Navy Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of December 20, addressed to the Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture, relative to Mr. Lee Lawrie's comments on the models for sculpture for the Post Office Department Building, Washington, D. C., has been called to my attention.

The Procurement Division appreciates the comment of Mr. Lawrie and wishes to inform you that copies of his report will be submitted to each of the sculptors represented in the group for his information and guidance.

These sculptors are being authorized to proceed with their work with the understanding that photographs of the full size clay model, which is the next step called for in their contract, will be submitted to The Commission of Fine Arts for comment and advice.

The Section thanks Mr. Lawrie for his suggestion that in submitting work for his consideration in the future models of the adjacent architecture be submitted with the sketch wherever possible.

The Season's Greetings to you and the members of your Commission.

Very truly yours,

Director of Procurement

EXHIBIT D-1

C O P Y

December 26, 1935.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 20, 1935, gave general approval to a design submitted for the National Park Service by Mr. Malcolm Kirkpatrick for the completion of the unfinished niche in Meridian Hill Park, including the approach from Sixteenth Street. The object was to treat the subject in the simplest manner consistent with the general design of the wall. Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, architect of Meridian Hill Park, took part in the discussion.

The Commission of Fine Arts recommend that the niche be completed in substantial accordance with the design submitted, a few details being left for future attention.

The approved design involves a small fountain, and sculptural ornament to make the niche agreeable when the water is not playing.

Mr. Carl Mose was proposed as the sculptor, and his selection would be agreeable to this Commission. This Commission further advises that $1,000 be the sculptor's remuneration, he to produce a model satisfactory to the Commission of Fine Arts:

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer,
Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington,D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

December 28, 1935.

Dear Mr. Finnan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting on December 20, 1935, considered the report which you submitted with your letter of December 19, regarding the condition of the English elms along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin, and also took note of the photographs showing the condition of these trees.

I attach also copy of a letter which Dr. F. V. Coville, Botanist of the Department of Agriculture, addressed to Mr. Moore, indicating his interest in the matter and offering whatever assistance he is able to provide.

It is my understanding that Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, discussed this whole problem with you and recommended trenching each side of the rows of trees to a depth a little greater than the maximum root penetration, a distance between five and six feet, and sufficiently far away from the trees so as to be a little beyond their present spread of the tops. It was recommended that these trenches be filled with coarse broken stone over a vitrified tile drain of adequate size laid with open joints. By reason of the elevation of this pipe, it may be found impossible to drain it by gravity. A sump and automatic pump located therein may be required in order to get the water into the nearest storm water sewer. Mr. Clarke tells me that you agreed with this scheme and that you are both of the opinion that this will go a long ways towards solving the difficulty which is being encountered with these elms at the present time. These trenches should succeed in taking away the surplus soil water permitting the root system of the trees to spread. Inasmuch as they are not affected by insect pests or plant diseases, it seems that the solution outlined should prove satisfactory. I hope that you will be able to accomplish this work in the very near future.

It might be well to obtain the opinion of others upon this suggested method of treatment for these English elms before going ahead with the work.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. C. Marshall Finnan,
Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

December 20, 1935.

Dear Mr. Yeager:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today considered the design which you submitted for the Government buildings, designed by George Dahl, architect, for the Texas Centennial Exposition.

As the style of the buildings for the exposition has already been set the Commission of Fine Arts do not disapprove the design of the buildings as presented.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. William B. Yeager,
Executive Secretary,
U. S. Texas Centennial Commission,
Room 7510, Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

January 3, 1936.

Dear Sir:

The decision of the Procurement Division to install certain mural paintings in the buildings of the Post Office Department and the Department of Justice contrary to the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is recognized as entirely within the powers of the executive officers charged with the construction of those buildings.

Nor is question raised as to the right of the executive officers to obtain for their guidance advice of others than the Commission of Fine Arts, which Commission was created by Congress and the members of which are appointed by the President of the United States for the purpose of advising the executive officers of the Government on matters relating to the fine arts.

The questions raised by the letter of the Procurement Division, however, involve fundamental principles as applied to Government art projects.

During the twenty-five years since its creation the Commission of Fine Arts have uniformly and consistently maintained that work done for the Government should have the essential element of permanence; that such work should be based on sound principles derived from the experience of the past, and should be executed by artists of proved ability both as creators and as executants.

The object of the Commission has been the protection of the Government in the expenditure of Government money. In short, this Commission have regarded the Government as their client, whose interests were of first consideration, to be protected against mediocre work. The Commission have ever regarded both the intrinsic merits of a given work of art and also its fitness for its assigned place.

The Commission of Fine Arts have never sought to use Government money to promote movements in contemporary art or to create a school of artists. Such objects they regard as fundamentally unsound in respect to Government work, because they are influenced by ephemeral conditions, and because they lack those elements of stability consonant with the stability of the Nation itself.

Again, this Commission have not sought to encourage the promotion of current social theories by means of Government art. Indeed, the

Commission find such attempts, some of which are being executed, attempts to promote concepts quite at variance with established ideas of fundamental rights and duties of citizenship. Government art primarily should have the quality of universality; above all it should have the element of beauty. Otherwise it is quickly outmoded and thenceforth becomes a byword and a jest.

This Commission have noted that in the public buildings under consideration there are works by sculptors of recognized ability both as creators and as executants. Side by side with these works of undoubted worth are mediocre designs by architectural modellers of no creative capacity, inserted where plain walls were preferable. Also there are essays in the use of metals whose adaptability for sculpture is still questionable. There are mural paintings which properly belong, if used at all, in another Department. The Commission have not found among the hundreds of essays examined works which either by reason of technical ability or choice of subject are calculated to advance American art or to promote American patriotism.

During a quarter of a century the Commission of Fine Arts, with an ever changing membership appointed by the President from among artists of experience and achievement, have striven to secure for the Government works of art expressive of the dignity, the power, and the cultivated taste of a fast growing nation--a nation with a historic past worthy of commemoration in art.

Other agencies may make experiments with ideas and methods of contemporary vogue. The history of art through the ages shows recurring alternations between distinguished achievement and banal mediocrity. This is notably true in this country. Yet in every period there have been artists of excellence whose works have lived through the generations.

With a deep sense of responsibility, increased through the years by the ever widening services required of them by Congress, the Commission of Fine Arts have aimed to secure for the Government of the United States the works of artists of high merit. Thus while rendering the service which the Government requires, the members feel that they are also working for the real advancement of art in America.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Rear Admiral C. J. Peoples,
Director, Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

December 24, 1935.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on December 20, 1935, considered the design for a bronze memorial plaque in honor of the officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, proposed for erection in the main entrance of the new Labor Department Building.

The Commission disapprove the design submitted, as it lacks artistic merit. The Commission recommend that Mr. Arthur Brown, of San Francisco, architect of the Labor Department Building, be designated to design the tablet.

The Commission inspected the locations for the tablet suggested in your letter, and disapprove them. It would be unfortunate to mar one of the pillars in the building with a bronze tablet.

The Commission suggest as an appropriate location for this memorial the wall space immediately at the left of the entrance to the auditorium. The memorial should take the form of a marble tablet, using the V-cut lettering.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer,
Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

December 24, 1935.

My dear Dr. Cret:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 20, 1935, visited the new Calvert Street Bridge. The members were very much pleased with your work as designer and Mr. Modjeski's as engineer. They congratulate you heartily on the results achieved. It sets a higher standard for Washington bridges.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Dr. Paul P. Cret,
17th and Sansom Streets,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

December 26, 1935.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 20, 1935, were impressed by the progress being made in the development of the Mall and particularly by the vista from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, which now requires only the removal of a few trees to complete the plan of 1792.

Unfortunately, however, that view is now spoiled by the parking of automobiles along the streets where they cross the central panel. This Commission strongly recommend that in cooperation with the District Commissioners the National Park Service prohibit such parking. Of course, the parking of automobiles should not be allowed anywhere in the Mall proper between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. Otherwise the large expenditures made to secure this predominating feature will be of no avail.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K